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1. AGENCY USE ONLY (Leave blank) 2. REPORT DATE 3. REPORT TYPE AND DATES COVERED  
FINAL 30 Sep 92 TO 29 Sep 93

4. TITLE AND SUBTITLE 5. FUNDING NUMBERS

(FY91 AASERT) NEUROTRANSMITTERS AND PHOSPHOLIPID METABOLISM

F49620-92-J-0479  
61103D  
3484  
S4

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AEOSR-TR- 94 0050

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110 Duncan Avenue, Suite B115  
Bolling AFBDC 20332-0001

10. SPONSORING / MONITORING AGENCY REPORT NUMBER

Dr Haddad

11. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES

2P5 94-09045

12. DISTRIBUTION / AVAILABILITY STATEMENT

Approved for public release;  
distribution unlimited

13. ABSTRACT (Maximum 200 words)

After receiving the AASERT fellowship, I conducted post-nBM lesion timecourse studies in order to determine whether cholinergic and phospholipid metabolism recovers after unilateral lesions. I found that cortical phospholipid biosynthesis and hydrolysis is altered following loss of cholinergic input.

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14. SUBJECT TERMS

15. NUMBER OF PAGES

16. PRICE CODE

17. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF REPORT

(U)

18. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF THIS PAGE

(U)

19. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF ABSTRACT

(U)

20. LIMITATION OF ABSTRACT

(UL)

NTIS PB90-280-5500

94 3 22 9

Revised Form 298 Rev. 1 89

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Progress Report for AFOSR/AASERT 2/16/94

Todd C. Holmes, Ph.D., Fellowship Recipient

The effects of lesion of ascending modulatory transmitter systems on phospholipid metabolism in the rat brain: models for neurotransmitter regulation of phospholipid metabolism.

My thesis research in Dr. Richard Wurtman's laboratory centered on the interactions between acetylcholine and phospholipid metabolism, specifically, on changes of phospholipid metabolism and mass in cortical terminal fields after removal of cholinergic innervation. Before receiving the AASERT fellowship, I found that phospholipid and phospholipid metabolite levels in frontoparietal cortex are decreased following excitotoxic lesion of the basal forebrain cholinergic nucleus basalis (nBM). nBM lesions were verified by the measurement of choline acetyltransferase activity and evoked acetylcholine release in cortical slices.

After receiving the AASERT fellowship, I conducted post-nBM lesion timecourse studies in order to determine whether cholinergic and phospholipid metabolism recovers after unilateral lesions. Choline acetyltransferase activity and evoked acetylcholine release in cortical slices showed an eventual recovery after the lesion. The decreases in cortical phospholipids also recovered after the lesion, the time course was similar to that seen for evoked acetylcholine release. Cholinergic lesion by surgical sectioning also resulted in decreased cortical phospholipids, while excitotoxic lesions of non-cholinergic projections to cortex did not change phospholipid levels. Radiolabelling and enzyme assay experiments with cortical tissues indicate that phospholipid biosynthesis is decreased following nBM lesion. This decrease occurs at the point of choline kinase. Phospholipid turnover in cortex may also be increased following nBM lesions, as indicated by muscarinic inositol lipid hydrolysis and choline radiolabelling of cortical tissues.

*I found that*  
In conclusion, cortical phospholipid biosynthesis and hydrolysis is altered following loss of cholinergic input.

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